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# PAARA

## GRAPHS



PALO ALTO  
AMATEUR  
RADIO ASSN.

MENLO PARK C.D. RADIO CLUB, K6YQT

FEBRUARY 1973

2

VOLUME 22 NUMBER 2

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PAARAGraphs is the official organ of the PALO ALTO AMATEUR RADIO  
ASSOCIATION AND THE MENLO PARK CIVIL DEFENSE RADIO CLUB  
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PAARA POLICIES

Membership in PAARA is a mere \$4 per calendar year, which includes a subscription to this fine periodical. PAARAGraphs alone may be had for a trifling \$1. Send cash, check, or money order to:

PAARA P. O. Box 911 Menlo Park, California 94025

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Contributions to WA6QFN 875 Sunset Drive San Carlos 94070

THE FANTASTIC FEBRUARY MEETING OF PAARA will feature noted DX'er

Merle Parton, K6DC with a presentation of the slide and tape show on the DXpedition to Palmyra and Kingman Reef made by Rusty, N6SF and Pete, WB600L. This is rated G and has been nominated for many honors by other clubs that have seen the show.

Meeting date is Friday, February 10. Time is 7:30 PM. Place is the Menlo Recreation Center. Bring a friend, even your wife; the scenery is beautiful.

THE ILLUSTRIOS PAARA Board of Directors meets the following Wednesday at 7:30 PM at the much maligned W6OTX trailer in the SRI parking lot.

The excitement is unbearable. Bring a sweater.

PAARA NETS: 2 meter AM net on 145.24 at 8:15 PM, followed by the FM net at 8:30 on 147.45, every Monday night. The PICS SSB net is at 9 AM on occasional Saturdays on 21.393 or 14.245.

CRYPTIC NOTES FROM THE BACK OF A NAPKIN, from WA6NCX/1, as relayed by W6NIR... Seems as though the East has a bit of bad weather, with mountains of snow, driven by 60 MPH winds, and made firm by 31 degree temperatures (highs?). Rick has been listening to the pandemonium on his scanner with stuck subway trains, stuck police cars, and stuck everything else. For those of you who find it difficult to believe, he is taking photographs to corroborate his tall stories. The W1AF linear is still on the sick list, but it has not impeded the successful completion of many contacts with W6NIR and others. (What some people will put up with in the pursuit of erudition!)

PAARA meetings return to the first Fridays of each month with the March meeting. According to your editor's xtal ball, future meeting dates will be March 3, April 7, May 5, June 2, July 7, August 4, September 8, October 6, November 3, and December 1.

The 2nd WEST COAST COMPUTER FAIRE will be held in San Jose on March 3, 4, and 5. Place will be the San Jose Convention Center. For more info, write Computer Faire, POBox 1579, Palo Alto, CA 94302.

## IS METRIC NECESSARY? by George Goldstone, W8AP

These days we have our minds made up for us by government. We don't have to wait until 1984; we are already being told what to do. You had better not get the idea that you can send your kids to the school across the street; some judge apparently has the right to say "No." And it won't be very darn long before we are told to speak all measurements in metric terms. In fact, we can use a lot of the old terms, if we really want to.

If you are looking for a convenient unit of measure, how about the "rod?" One rod is  $5\frac{1}{2}$  yards; and a yard, as any fool knows is 3 feet. So a rod is  $16\frac{1}{2}$  feet, which makes a good half-wave antenna on the 28 MHz band. We could then call the 14 MHz band the "4-rod band," which is an easy number to remember, especially because road in Michigan has traditionally been a "4-rod road" in width. For a real nice long wire, you could use a furlong, which just happens to be 40 rods, or 660 feet.

Now the 4-rod piece of wire-66 feet long- that you might use as a half-wave on 7 MHz- just happens to be one "chain" in a surveyor's measure. Isn't that a colorful unit of measurement? Every chain has 100 links, each link being 7.92 inches. Just 5 of these links will give you a half-wave on 2 meters - uhh, we mean 144 MHz. See how easy all this is? You can start out with the simple but memorable assumption that a king of England once had a foot that was exactly 12 inches long. With this as a standard, all is simple. You memorize the word "boxcars" meaning two 6's side by side: 66. Multiply that by one foot, which shouldn't tax any ham's mental machinery. That gives you a half-wave on 7 MHz or 4 rods. Then remember that a rod will work fine as a quarter-wave whip on 14 MHz, 2 rods on 7 MHz. If it is easier to remember, just call a rod 25 links; 2 rods 50 links.

If for some reason you think the term "rod" sounds like a term used by gun nuts, there are other words in the English language which mean the same thing. It can also be called a "perch" or a "pole." The use of "perch" should probably be discouraged, however, as in some parts of the United States, "perch" has the same meaning as a "verandah," while in another part of the country it might mean a fruit usually spelled Papa Echo Alfa Charlie Hotel. "Rod" is the preferred usage.

Knowing how simple that old English system is, we are sure you won't want to get into the complications of the metric system, where all units of measure on the base ten, and all you have to do to shift measurement units is to move a decimal point. Long live the rod, the chain, the link and the furlong.

THE FACING PAGE IS FROM the April 1976 issue of HAM HUM, as reprinted from the ARNS Bulletin, as originally printed in the DARA Bulletin. Which gives you an idea how far this publication has come since it fell into the hands of WB6GRZ/WA7DOX, now otherwise known as N6RY. That article is dedicated to PAARAGraphs' new EXECUTING EDITOR, Bill King, WA6OFN. Bill is quite devoted to accuracy and exactness, and we can all be sure that he will not allow any of those silly Metric (MKS) units to crop up on these hallowed pages!

Actually, Bill would have been my first choice as a successor, and I wish him well and much enjoyment of the forum he has available to him. The thing he needs most is the support of the members of PAARA. It really is no fun alone. Hand him a note at the club meeting; mention a want-ad or two on the 10 link FM net. Perhaps the mysterious "Anonymous" will pen an article or two (if he isn't still angry over the "baby oil incident.") As far as insights into the reason for my departure, scan the following from the March 1977 Carrier. . .

#### MARRY NOT A RADIO HAM

Verily, I say unto you, marry not a Radio Ham, for he is a strange being, possessed of many devils.

He speaketh eternally in dit-da, and he spelleteth his words without vowels.

He knoweth countries only by prefixes; he learneth his geography by zones.

He stayeth up late at nights, for reasons known only to him, and thou wouldest not believe his stories if he told you!

And when he courteth his damsel, he keepeth a Log Book; and when he maketh a trip, he views not scenery, but looks for antennas.

He picketh his seat in the car by the rig therein, and not by the damsel beside him.

He holdeth a damsel's hand only to measure the fist, and he embraceth only to test the strength of her muscles.

He checketh the vibrations of her heart with WWV and he reckoneth her strength of raising antennas.

Verily, though she expecteth chocolates when he calleth, she openeth the package to find filter chokes!

### A BEGINNER'S OSCAR 7 TIMETABLE

If you can receive 10 meter signals, the easiest way to hear Oscar 7 is to take note of these underlined evening Pacific Standard times when Oscar 7 will be flying closest to the Bay Area. Oscar 7's beacon (neglecting the Doppler effect) is on 29.502 MHz and repeated signals are between 29.4 MHz and 29.5 MHz.

If you want to hear Oscar 7 when it is farther way, try some of these other evening times (not underlined) when it can be heard. Those times prior to 7:47 PM are east of us (toward Hudson Bay). Those times after 7:47 PM are almost due west of us.

You can hear the closest orbits for about 22 minutes (that is, plus and minus 11 minutes from the times given). Far away orbits don't last that long. In the table below, the approximate QTH's over which Oscar 7 will be flying 910 miles high, going north with the loudest signals for us, are indicated by letters in parentheses. The hardest or maybe the impossible QTH to hear is almost 2450 miles away (10:47 PM, February 1, indicated by the letter P).

C-Hudson Bay, D-Ontario, E-North Dakota, F-Wyoming, G-Utah, H-Nevada, I-within 200 miles of us, J-200 to 400 miles west of SF, K- 400 to 800 miles west of SF, N-1600 to 2000 miles west of SF, O-2000 to 2400 miles west of SF, and P-2400 to 2450 miles west of SF.

February 1	5: 10 (D)	6: 59 (G)	8: 52 (L)	10: 47 (P)
February 4	5: 55 (E)	<u>7: 47 (I)</u>	9: 40 (M)	
February 7	4: 51 (C)	6: 41 (F)	<u>8: 33 (K)</u>	10: 28 (O)
February 10	5: 36 (D)	<u>7: 28 (H)</u>	9: 21 (M)	
February 13	4: 33 (C)	6: 28 (E)	<u>8: 15 (J)</u>	10: 09 (N)

These calculations are based upon the AMSAT W6PAJ orbital predictions. W6PAJ points out that "depending on the operating schedule . . . the satellite may be operational, or off, or recharging, or restricted for experimental or educational uses on some orbits within your range." February 7 is an experimental date. Sometimes the beacon has a message instead of those numbers that indicate battery condition, etc. This table does not show the morning times or the mode B times.

...from the MDARC Carrier for January 1978. Calculated by W6CU, editor.

## The SAN JOSE BICENTENNIAL AWARD

This award is sponsored by SCCARA and began on January 1, 1978. To qualify for the award, you must make contact with five holders of the current bicentennial certificates, one of which must be a member of SCCARA. All contacts must be on 10 meters. To infuse the bacteria, the officers and board members of SCCARA will have the privilege of awarding five single contact certificates each.

Information required to verify contact is 1. Call of certificate holder; 2. Name of certificate holder; 3. QTH; 4. Time of contact in UTC; and 5. The San Jose Bicentennial certificate number of the contact.

SCCARA address is P. O. Box 6, San Jose, CA 95103.

According to the Mt. Diablo ARC Carrier, the Japanese Yen has changed value quite drastically with respect to the US Dollar recently. For this reason, American amateurs can expect to be paying more dollars for electronic equipment that comes from Japan.

The Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association has a Novice net which meets at 7:30 PM on Wednesday evenings on 28.120 MHz. Net control station is Harry, WB6PRU.

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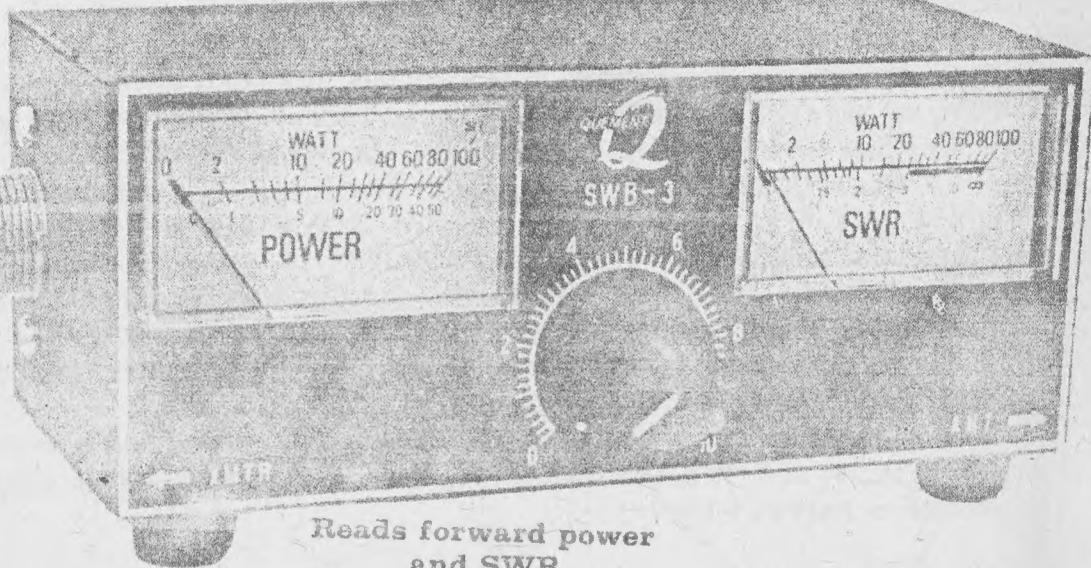
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